

were called to make similar decisions about resources in areas controlled by Cuba I well might support similar restrictions for the offshore areas the government of Cuba has decided to make available for exploration and development.

But I think that once the government of Cuba has made that decision, our Government should not insist on preventing American companies from seeking the opportunity to take part in those activities—especially since the American energy industry is unrivalled for its technical expertise and its ability to meet the technical challenges involved. My legislation would allow them to seek that opportunity.

HONORING THE MOSES AND AARON FOUNDATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization committed to special needs children and their families. The Foundation's significant and enduring efforts, under the direction of the president, Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun, and Executive Vice President Yehuda Kaploun, deserve the highest praise, as do the philanthropists who have given so much of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation Special Fund for Children, an all-volunteer organization, is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities and their families with a wide range of programs, including social, physical, financial and wheelchair assistance, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions; collects, purchases, and distributes clothing for children in need; provides presents to those children at holiday time or when hospitalized.

In cooperation with Bally's Fitness Centers, the Foundation has been able to establish physical fitness and therapy centers. It has also arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions.

On July 28, 2007, at the Sullivan County Community College in Lock Sheldrake, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation, under the honorary chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, will sponsor its 11th Summer "Chazak-Strength" Concert honoring and paying tribute to special and outstanding children and their families. The guests of honor will be the special and outstanding children, many of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage. More than 40 organizations and schools serving the physically and mentally disabled children will be represented.

The Chazak Concert and the Moses and Aaron Foundation's other programs demonstrate a caring and compassionate concern for the quality and dignity of life of others and merit the appreciation of all who have benefited from its services.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I commend the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in our society.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JACOB S. SCHMUECKER

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of SGT Jacob S. Schmuecker, an Atkinson, Nebraska, native who lost his life on July 21 in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Schmuecker, assigned to Nebraska's National Guard's 755th Chemical Reconnaissance/Decontamination Company, died when his military vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb.

This young man represented some of the best qualities of Nebraska, and our State mourns his loss.

Sergeant Schmuecker has been described as "calm, cool, and collected"—a man who answered the call of duty and served honorably. His loss will be felt not only by the men in his unit, but in Nebraska where he leaves behind his wife and three young children.

My prayers and condolences go out to Sergeant Schmuecker's family and friends who feel the loss of this brave man. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 24, 2007, I was with the President in my district visiting our troops at Charleston Air Force Base. As such, I missed several votes related to the Transportation Housing Appropriations Bill. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 691, Mica Amendment, "yes"; rollcall 692, Bachmann Amendment, "no"; rollcall 693, Flake Amendment, "no"; rollcall 694, Flake Amendment, "no"; rollcall 695, Chabot Amendment, "yes."

Should you have any questions, please contact my Washington office.

TRIBUTE TO FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DAVIS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Florida's most outstanding public servants, State Representative Mike Davis (R-Naples), who is retiring after an exceptional career.

Mike was first elected to the Florida Legislature in 2002, and from the first time I met him, I knew he'd be a great leader. Mike is one of

the hardest-working people I know and his enthusiasm and passion for serving the community is inspiring. Mike's the type of elected official that all of us in public service strive to be—accessible, dedicated, and effective.

I've known Mike for over 5 years and had the opportunity to serve in the Florida Legislature with him. He is one of the most talented and committed representatives. He truly represents the ideals of our region and has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Southwest Florida a great place to live, work and visit.

Southwest Florida has experienced tremendous growth over the last several decades, and Mike understands the importance of ensuring that we have an infrastructure that can support this growth. As Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee, Mike successfully fought to improve our regional transportation system, pushed for growth management solutions, and worked to ensure that our airports are safe and reliable. He's also worked to make housing more affordable for Floridians.

Of course, Mike's public service does not end with his stint in the Legislature. Mike's held countless positions on numerous civic and charitable organizations throughout Southwest Florida. He's the type of person who believes in giving back to his community tenfold and has done just that. From working with Boy Scout Troop 225, to serving as President of the Naples chapter of the Rotary Club, to volunteering with Hospice of Naples—he's left an indelible mark on our community.

I'd also like to recognize Mike's wife, Patricia, and his two children, Christian and Natasha, for their support during his public service—I know he couldn't have accomplished so much without their love and support.

Madam Speaker, Southwest Florida is better off today because of Mike Davis' tireless work. I wish Mike and his family all the best.

HONORING PASTOR CLARENCE SEXTON

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, on August 26, many people from East Tennessee and others from around the Nation will join together to honor Dr. Clarence Sexton on his 40th anniversary in Christian ministry.

Clarence Sexton is one of the finest men I have ever known. Through his work, he has touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways.

He has a heart for service and has shown simple human kindness to countless numbers of people. This world is a better place and many have been saved because of the life Clarence Sexton has led.

The most successful people in the world try some projects that do not go well or even some that fail. But the most important thing is that they never stop trying.

Clarence Sexton is one of the most successful men I know. He is what I call a mover and a shaker, and he would have been a great success in almost anything to which he devoted his tremendous enthusiasm and work ethic.